



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office
P.O. Box 45155
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155
<http://www.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:
1610
(UT-936)

JUL 21 2005

Dear Interested Party:

Thank you for your continued interest in the Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Fire Management Planning Process. We are writing to notify you of the availability of the Proposed Utah Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management Environmental Assessment (EA) and to inform you of the initiation of a 30-day protest period (as per 43 CFR 1610.5-2).

In April 2004, the BLM initiated an effort to bring the agency's land use plans into greater compliance with national guidance and direction for addressing wildland fire and hazardous fuel reduction concerns. The Utah BLM State Office has led this effort by preparing one Environmental Assessment (EA) that would amend up to 21 of the BLM's land use plans across the state. The EA is intended to address previously unforeseen fire-related issues that existing land use plans in Utah have not addressed. These issues include large-scale ecosystem changes, large-fire impacts, and a higher level of focus on fuel treatments.

The Proposed Amendment EA that is now available includes an unsigned Finding of No Significant Impacts and contains slight modifications based on public comments that were received during the 30-day comment period on the Draft Amendment EA that ended on April 30, 2004. A description of these changes and responses to comments are located in Chapter 5 of the Proposed Amendment EA and does not significantly alter the analysis nor introduce additional alternatives. If you would like to receive a CD or paper copy of the Proposed Amendment EA, please contact Matthew Higdon at the BLM Utah State Office at (801) 539-4052 or via email (mhigdon@blm.gov). Unfortunately, due to maintenance issues with the BLM's internet websites, it is not currently possible to provide this Proposed Amendment EA for review on our website.

The Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management may be protested. Those who have participated in this planning process have standing to make such a protest. The 30 day protest period for the proposed plan amendment will commence on August 1, 2005 and end on August 31, 2005. Following the protest period, the Finding of No Significant Impact and the Decision Record will be issued by the Utah State Director pending resolution of any protests.

Protests should be sent to the following address:

Director (210), Bureau of Land Management,
Attention: Brenda Williams
P.O. Box 66538
Washington, D.C. 20035

The overnight address (FedEx or USPS) for next day delivery:
Director (210), Bureau of Land Management
Attention: Brenda Williams
1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1075
Washington, D.C. 20036

Faxed protests will be considered as potential valid protests provided: (1) that a signed faxed letter is received by the Washington Office protest coordinator by the closing date of the protest period, and (2) that the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period.

Please direct faxed protests to:
BLM Protest Coordinator
(202) 452-5112

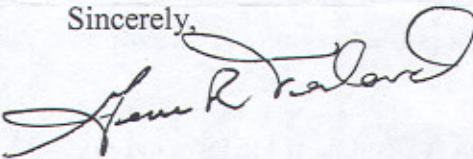
Protests should be filed with the Director within the official 30-day protest period.

A protest should contain the following information:

- The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
- A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
- A statement of the part or parts being protested.
- A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that you submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record.
- A short concise statement explaining why the BLM State Director decision is believed to be incorrect.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, the Proposed Utah Land Use Plan Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management, excluding any portions under protest, shall become the final. Approval shall be withheld on any portion of the plan under protest until final action has been completed on such protest.

Sincerely,


Sally Wisely
State Director